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TO: Hospital CEO/President

FROM: Deborah Allwes, BS, BSN, RN, MPH
Director, Bureau of Healthcare Safety and Quality

RE: Memo on Cardiac Catheterization

DATE: January 20, 2015

The Department of Public Health (the Department) issued a Circular Letter, **DHCQ 14-6-617**, to hospitals in July of 2014 related to the provision of hospital-based cardiac catheterization services.

At this time, the entirety of circular letter DHCQ 14-6-617 ("the July Circular Letter") has been suspended, including the guidance on volume minimums and the sanctioned transfer of cardiac catheterization facilities within Accountable Care Organization (ACO) networks. The Department has suspended the July Circular Letter to allow the Department to re-evaluate the July Circular Letter guidance in the context of best practices, national guidelines, patient outcomes, safety and quality for cardiac catheterization. The Department expects to conduct its review during the next four to six months. At the conclusion of the Department's review, the Department plans to bring recommendations to the Public Health Council for input and guidance.

Please note: the suspension of the July Circular Letter does not in any way limit or alter any other DPH rules or guidance applicable to cardiac catheterization, including, but not limited to, the Minimum Workload Requirements contained in 105 CMR 130.935.

Questions about this letter should be directed to: Gail Palmeri at
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